

Remarks

I. Introduction

In response to the Office Action mailed February 20, 2004, Applicant submits this Amendment concurrently with a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time. A complete listing of all pending claims is submitted herewith. By this amendment claims 1-26 have been cancelled without prejudice and the specification and claims 27, 31, 32, 34, 37, 38, 40 and 41 have been amended. Claims 27-42 are pending in the above-identified application. All the pending claims have been rejected.

The drawings have been objected to because they do not contain the letters C, D, E, F, TC1, B1, G1, B2, G2, H or E2 and letters C and D are used on different figures to show different elements. In addition the Examiner states that Figure 11 does not contain number 43 and there is no description in the specification of letter P. As set forth above, the specification has been amended to replace reference to the letters C, D, E, F, TC1, B1, G1, B2, G2 H or E2 with numerals that correspond to the submitted figures. The specification has also been amended to replace reference to the number 43 with the letter P that corresponds to the label of Figure 11. No new matter has been added by these amendments. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to the drawings has been overcome, and withdrawal thereof is requested.

II. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112 Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 31, 32 and 34-40 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention. Claims 31, 32, 34, 37, 38

and 40 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections and not for any reason relating to patentability. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 31, 32 and 34-40 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

III. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102 Should Be Withdrawn

Claims 27-29 and 40-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,750,026 to Gadkaree et al. (the "Gadkaree" patent). The Examiner alleges that the Gadkaree patent teaches a porous carbon monolith structure for the adsorption and desorption of volatile organic components, which desorption is by electric heating of the carbon monolith.

The Gadkaree patent, however, describes a device made entirely of activated carbon having a multicellular structure. (See Gadkaree abstract). The monolith is made with fillers to form the pores and the fillers can be carbonised to form the multicellular product. (See Gadkaree col. 10 lines 41-50; col. 11 line 1 - col. 12 line 65). In particular, the carbon filter is formed by a mixture of resin and binders, extruding the resin and then carbonizing and activating the resin. (See Gadkaree col. 10 line 27; 52-56). According to the Gadkaree patent the use of liquid or solid resin alone presents problems. (See Gadkaree col. 10 lines 66-67). The Gadkaree patent further states that the filler must be hydrophilic. (See Gadkaree col. 10 lines 52-54). In contrast, amended claim 27 recites a method for removing volatile compounds from air wherein the monolithic porous carbon is made by partially curing a phenolic resin to a solid, comminuting the partially cured resin, sintering the comminuted resin to produce a form-stable sintered product and carbonising the form-stable sintered product. The Gadkaree patent neither discloses nor

suggests such a method as claimed herein. Accordingly, claims 27 and 41, and claims 28, 29, 40 and 42 which depend from claims 27 and 41, are believed allowable.

Therefore, in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 27-29 and 40-42 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the Gadkaree patent are respectfully requested.

IV. The Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103 Should Be Withdrawn

Claim 30 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Gadkaree in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,914,294 to Park et al. (the "Park" patent).

Claims 31-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Gadkaree in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,110,328 to Yokota et al. (the "Yokota" patent).

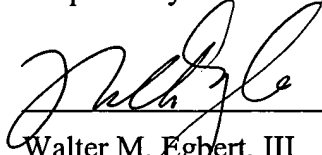
Claims 37-39 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Gadkaree in view of Yokota, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,628,819 to Mestemaker et al. (the "Mestemaker" patent).

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. As stated above, the Gadkaree patent fails to teach or suggest the all the elements of independent claim 27. Neither the Park patent, the Yokota patent nor the Mestemaker patent teach or suggest the missing elements of claim 27. As claims 30, 31-36 and 37-39 all depend from claim 27 which is believed allowable for the reasons discussed above, the dependent claims are also allowable. Therefore, in view of the foregoing, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 30, 31-36 and 37-39 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are respectfully requested.

V. **Conclusion**

In view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Walter M. Egbert, III", is written over a horizontal line.

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